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MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member United States Intelligence Board

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Overhead Imagery Reconnaissance of North
Vietnam During a Truce

REFERENCE : USIB-D-46.4/15 (COMIREX-D-25.3/3), 7 May 1968

1. This is a briefing note on the above subject which has been circulated to Board members for concurrence or other views by close of business Wednesday, 8 May 1968.

2. The probable need to revise photo coverage requirements of NVN in the event of a truce has been recognized and discussed by COMIREX since the President's announcement of 31 March. Concurrently, at Mr. Bundy's request, a paper on reconnaissance has been in preparation for the U.S. Government's negotiations book. The revised requirements were prepared by COMIREX in response to a DIA request and, if approved by USIB, will be used as a basis for continuing work on the reconnaissance portion of the negotiations book.

3. As noted by [] there are no major differences between these requirements and those previously stated by the Board. Nevertheless, the targets, although not specifically identified in this paper, will be different since our objectives will change somewhat. Whereas previously the primary objective was the detection of new weapons, under truce conditions we will be looking for signs of a buildup of NVN forces and movements toward South Vietnam. We will continue to target ports and railyards and search likely areas for new weapons. We also will maintain a degree of currency with respect to air defenses.

4. The requirement for "nearly daily" coverage of certain highest priority targets is now changed to read "as often as weather and operational factors permit." To this extent, we believe the new requirement is more realistic than its predecessor.

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5. Recommendation:

It is recommended that you approve the recommendation of COMIREX.

6. The DDS&T concurs in the above recommendation and notes for your information that [] airborne missions per week would be needed to provide the coverage required.

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[]

CIA Member, COMIREX

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APPROVE: *

***Approve. COMIREX is now requested to advise USIB as to the responsiveness of the existing systems for the collection of imagery necessary to satisfy the requirements set forth in this paper.**

/S/ Rufus Taylor

9 MAY 1968

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, USN
CIA Member, USIB

Date

Acting Chairman

10 May 1968

/s/ []

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